

**From:** Don Norton  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/11/01 9:57pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Anti-trust

I am writing you in support of the settlement that was reached with Microsoft.

Interestingly (though not surprisingly), I am doing this by following a link from Red Hat Software (a Microsoft competitor). I am an Information Technology expert and have followed this trial closely. From its very beginnings, I think the strong competitive forces in the technology sector (AOL/Netscape, Sun, Oracle, and other smaller companies such as Red Hat) have used and manipulated the Department of Justice and the Justice system to enhance their respective positions as vigorous competitors of Microsoft. I find this approach underhanded and devious.

That said, Microsoft is not without blame in the current situation. When Microsoft made the decision to bundle in disk compression technologies (in or around 1993) in order to eliminate Stacker Software. Then, in 1995, when Microsoft made the decision to offer a free (unprofitable) version of Internet Explorer 1.0 in order to drive customers away from Netscape it crossed the line and used unfair practices in the marketplace.

I feel that the proposed settlement punishes Microsoft sufficiently and hopefully ensures free market competition without the radical step of breaking up the company.

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